

DOG LAWS

are for people...



and a dog's GOOD Life

PENNSYLVANIA STATE LIBRARY



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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Jack Thornburgh
Governor
Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania

Penrose Hallowell
Secretary
Department of
Agriculture

ABOUT DOGS

Owning a dog is one of the great American pastimes and privileges. Dogs fill the role of companion, guide, hunter, guardian, herdsman and entertainer. But owning a dog is a major responsibility as well. That responsibility extends not only to proper care and training of your dog, but also to your responsibility for the dog's behavior. A proper understanding of the responsibilities of dog ownership is necessary in today's complex society.



BASIC GUIDELINES FOR DOG OWNERSHIP IN PENNSYLVANIA

— **ALL DOGS** over **6 MONTHS** of age **MUST** be **LICENSED**.

— **ALL DOGS** must be **UNDER CONTROL**. This means that when your dog is not on your property, it must be under the **DIRECT CONTROL** of you or a handler. The best way to control your dog is with a **LEASH**. Remember, dogs are **PERSONAL PROPERTY**. You are **RESPONSIBLE** for any **DAMAGE** caused by your dog.

— **IT IS ILLEGAL** to **MISTREAT** or **ABUSE** a dog (or any animal). **REPORT** mistreatment to your local **HUMANE ORGANIZATION**.

Before you decide to take any dog into your home, ask yourself a few questions:

— **CAN I AFFORD A DOG?** Dogs are very expensive. You will be spending money on **VETERINARIANS' BILLS, MEDICINES, LEASHES, COLLARS, TOYS** and **LICENSES** for your dog. Many people are not **FINANCIALLY** able to support a dog. **ARE YOU?**

— **DO I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO CARE FOR AND TRAIN A DOG?** **TEACHING** your dog **PROPER MANNERS** is a must, to avoid neighbor and possible **LEGAL PROBLEMS**. Your dog will also need to be **FED, WATERED, EXERCISED** and **CLEANED UP** after daily, which requires a lot of **EFFORT**. **BE HONEST** with yourself. **ARE YOU WILLING TO TAKE THE TIME?**

— **WHAT'S THE BEST DOG FOR ME?** Many people don't realize that they can get a dog tailored to their **NEEDS**. With more than **100 BREEDS** to chose from, you, as a **PROSPECTIVE DOG OWNER**, should be able to find an animal whose **APPEARANCE** and **NATURE** is **BEST FOR YOU**.



The **GREAT DANE** — Pennsylvania's official State Dog

DOG LICENSE APPLICATION

Send to the **COUNTY TREASURER** at the **COURTHOUSE**. Include a **SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED** envelope with your **CHECK**.

Owners Name _____

Street _____

Post Office _____ Zip _____

Township _____ Phone _____

Dogs Age _____ Breed _____ Color _____

Sex & Fee	Male \$1.20	☐	Female \$2.20	☐	Spayed Female \$1.20	☐
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Application for Spayed Female requires
Veterinary Certificate or affidavit.

Dog Licenses must be purchased **EACH
YEAR** on or before **JANUARY 15th**.

SOME RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUREAU OF DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Reimburse people for dog caused damages to livestock, sheep, poultry and domestic game birds.
- License and inspect all kennels.
- Enforce licensing of dogs, and require all dogs to be under control.
- Financially assist and cooperate with humane and law enforcement agencies.
- Provide educational services concerning dog ownership.

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURE



WE'RE GROWING BETTER

Look for this distinctive "Pennsylvania Agriculture -- We're Growing Better" symbol when making food purchases. This symbol when seen with produce, processed foods or meat is the sign of a Pennsylvania product. Your support of this program will increase the sales of Pennsylvania agricultural products, stimulate the growth of our state's economy, and improve the freshness of the foods on your table.

IMPORTANT DOG LAWS

1. **ALL DOGS** must be kept under **CONTROL**. Owners are responsible for all damages caused by their dogs.
2. All dogs over 6 months of age must be **LICENSED** before January 15 **EACH YEAR**.
3. Dog **FINES** range from \$10 to \$300 plus costs.
4. It is illegal to **MISTREAT** or **ABUSE** any animal. Report **VIOLATIONS** to your local **HUMANE ORGANIZATION**.
5. It is **UNLAWFUL** to **TRANSFER** a **LICENSE TAG** issued one dog to another.
6. It shall be **UNLAWFUL** for any person to place any **POISON** in any place where it may easily be found or eaten by dogs.
7. If you are **BITTEN BY A DOG**: Make sure you can **IDENTIFY** the dog, seek **MEDICAL AID**, and call the **POLICE** or local **DOG CONTROL AGENT**.
8. It shall be the **DUTY** of every **POLICE OFFICER** to **SEIZE** and **DETAIN** any **DOG** which is found **RUNNING AT LARGE**, either upon the public streets or upon the property of others.
9. You may **LOCATE** your **DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** by calling your local police department.

For more information on dogs or dog laws write:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Telephone: (717) 787-3062

BE A GOOD DOG NEIGHBOR KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CONTROL!